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SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 1912.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

We are now upon the eve of the Republican National Convention at Chicago. The campaign is over and the delegates are to determine who will be the nominee of the Republican party for President.

The storm-center of the week has been Chicago. In the annex to the huge structure in which the convention will be held, the National Committee has been engaged in settling the contests between the delegates. The disclosures before the committee have fully justified the assertion made in The Washington Herald many weeks ago that 90 per cent of the contests instituted by Mr. Roosevelt's managers had no other foundation than a purpose to impair the integrity of the Taft strength.

It is not surprising that when the evidence—or, rather, the lack of evidence—was made painfully apparent to the National Committee, its members, irrespective of their predilection for Taft or Roosevelt, joined in unanimous verdicts against the Roosevelt claimants. It is, however, somewhat surprising that these tactics should have been resorted to by any political managers. The Presidential nomination is a great stake, and it is perfectly proper that political strategy should be employed to its utmost limit.

Through the action of the National Committee in granting seats to practically all of the Taft delegates the President has been given control of the convention. The anticipated protest, asserting fraud and force, has, therefore, arisen. It is a part of the prearranged programme. At the same time, it is difficult to see how the committee could have done otherwise.

In thus securing the control of the temporary organization of the convention, a control to which he is clearly entitled, Mr. Taft secures a distinct advantage. This is the reason why the decisions of the National Committee were so important. They assure the election of Senator Root, President Taft's candidate, as temporary chairman, and give to the President a majority of the committee on credentials, which will make certain the ratification of the action of the National Committee.

When the Republican electors combine to keep a Republican President out of the White House, no matter who he may be, somebody should put a huge chalk mark on the wall! When the Chicago convention has acted the limelight will suddenly shift to Baltimore. It is still impossible to predict the outcome of the Democratic gathering. Everything there depends upon the outcome at Chicago. Champ Clark will go into the convention with the largest number of votes, and he is the second choice of many. There will be no nomination, however, until the whole situation has been thoroughly canvassed. The Democratic party this year does not want to make any mistake. It has not had so good an opportunity to elect a President in twenty years, and it does not want to sacrifice its chance.

But the chances are with him, more now than ever. If the delegates who now declare themselves loyal to him remain unwavering, he will receive the requisite majority on the first ballot. It is not to the credit of American politics that the air should be filled with rumors of the corrupt use of money in connection with a Presidential nomination, but, after all, these may be only rumors, and it will be to the everlasting honor of the approaching convention

if it shall meet and adjourn without the smell of smoke upon its garments. There is no reason why this should not be the case. Unfortunately, however, there is in the Southern States a condition not altogether desirable. In these States, where Republicanism is but a name, and party organization a mere semblance of reality, Republican politics has become more a matter of business than a devotion to principle. This is the weak spot in the Republican structure. In late years conditions have greatly improved, but it remains for this convention to prove whether the blight has been entirely removed.

Whether or not money will be used in directly influencing the delegates, there can be no doubt that it is not lacking in this remarkable contest. One can but admire, even though one's innermost soul is haunted by a cynical doubt, the splendid devotion to the plain people which has led many millionaires to contribute with extravagant generosity to a cause which marshals these same plain people into an enthusiastic army. One wonders, although still disturbed by a haunting suspicion, whether we are approaching the Utopian stage. It is certainly strange that men whose regard for the public welfare has certainly not been displayed in the past should now rush forward with enormous contributions in order that the people may rule. It is a conversion which, somehow or other, does not ring true.

Let us, not being evil-minded, believe that it is sincere. Let us not accept the statement of the Wall Street Journal that the Wall Street interests are supporting Roosevelt because, if elected, he will give the railroads an increase in rates; let us ignore as unworthy of consideration the intimations in regard to the undue activity of the Steel Trust and the Harvester Trust. Let us, indeed, accept things as we find them and take it for granted that the eleventh-hour devotion to the plain people now manifested in hitherto hostile quarters is the happy evidence of regenerated hearts!

Miss Tarbell and the Housewives.

Miss Ida Tarbell, the sociological and economical writer, in a magazine article accuses American women of being so much engrossed in the economic measures which men as a rule are active in that they have no time left to devote to necessary household reforms. Miss Tarbell adds that not one woman in a thousand recognizes the obligation to make a fit citizen of the foreign girl who comes into her house as a servant. She urges the American woman to grapple with her own labor problem. In reply Mrs. Heath, who knows something about the problem, being in touch with about 400,000 American housekeepers, states that our women are doing this very thing.

Wherever statistics must be relied upon it is difficult to find an average. It would be quite impossible, therefore, to gather any sort of satisfactory information as to treatment of servant girls by mistresses, or vice versa. Still, if called upon to narrate their experiences, there are thousands of housekeepers who could testify to their friendly interest in the affairs and the uplift of their "help."

The woman who would confess her own impatience with the growing demands and the incivility of the foreign help in American families could tell of friends or neighbors more patient and enduring, more ready to forget the shortcomings of their servants, and more active in their efforts to train them to fill the position in American economic life, which domestic servants should fill, and which it is proper that they should occupy.

DRINKING WATER AT MEALS.

Helps Digestion by Using Protein Food and Throttling Bacteria.

There are always two sides to the simplest little facts of life. There is this matter of drinking water at one's meals. It has been regarded as a miserable habit. The school textbooks teach it that way, and they give very impressive reasons for it. It is used to be taught: drink at your meals; if you feel like it; drink all you want; it is good for you; helps digestion. Then came the opposite doctrine, never drink at your meals, and not for an hour afterward, and that idea has prevailed and is a part of our wise school knowledge these days.

Why do so many sick people in hospital wards like to be put in a bed next to a patient from the country? said the young nurse to the house doctor. "Graft," said the doctor. "Most country or suburban patients come from homes where there are chickens and maybe a cow. When their folks come in for a visit they bring eggs that were laid that morning and fresh milk, cream, and butter. If the person lying beside the country patient is very sick he appeals to the sympathies of the country visitors, and the next time an extra egg and an extra pint of milk comes to him."

making mistakes is proverbial. Perhaps this is the year when their error column will not be filled.

The German "Kommerz."

The lesson to be learned from the visit of the German fleet was taught not at formal and stately gatherings, where hosts and guests recognized and confirmed, perhaps even increased, an international amity long since established, but at the great "kommerz," with which the long series of hospitable functions in New York drew toward its end. Of course, all the other receptions, dinners, etc., were all right, too, being marked by sincere friendliness on both sides.

It was when the entertaining of the Germans was undertaken by Germans that the consideration of motives sank into a second place (where it belonged); that all suggestions of performing a duty disappeared and everybody just proceeded to have a good time. British or American alike, when desiring to pay a high social honor, can think of but one thing, a banquet or a dinner, stomach-killing and complex as to menu, and taking a great deal more time to serve than any one really cares to devote to a single meal, and finally, to have to listen to a number of post-prandial speeches, full of satire, but rarely amusing or edifying. Americans must like this sort of thing, otherwise they easily could manage to stay away.

But at a "kommerz" every participant really is enjoying himself, even though he be alien to the ceremonial and even though he may have his doubts—say next morning—as to the wisdom of filling and emptying the mug or the glass as often as the fashion of the function requires. We are not really social, in the German sense, after we grow up, and herein undoubtedly lies the explanation why the "kommerz" remains an exotic among us.

Uncle Pennywise Says:

Some of us can laugh when the joke is on us; but none of us believe in carrying that kind of a joke too far. Down the Rhine. "Look at this beautiful castle." "Don't bother me. How can I read the guide book if you keep pestering me to look at rocks and castles?"

A Peasimist's View.

"We couldn't have a tea boycott today like they had in 1788." "Oh, some people would go in for it." "But others wouldn't. And the wise guys would immediately get busy delivering it in unlettered wagons."

Swat Vigorously.

"Oh, fatter not. It is not nice. To have to swat. The same by twice."

All Champions.

"So they are married?" "Yes; he's a champion golfer." "And the girl?" "Is a champion bridge player." "Where shall they live?" "With the bride's father. He's a champion bricklayer."

More Libel.

"That doctor is something of a cynic." "As to how?" "He says when a man has a malady it's a disease, and when a woman has it, it's a complaint."

Famous Rock Falls.

Argentina's most notable natural phenomenon, the famous "Piedra Movedita," or oscillating rock, near Tandil, has fallen down. The huge rock lay upon another rock near the edge of a cliff. It swung to and fro on being touched by the hand, but the worst burrhead had been unable to dislodge it. The cause of its collapse after so many hundreds of years is a mystery.

Inconsistency of Man.

From the Chicago Record-Herald. "Your husband seems to be very impatient lately." "Yes, he is, very." "What is the matter with him?" "He is getting tired waiting for a chance to get out where he can sit patiently hour after hour waiting for a fish to nibble at his bait."

Kaiser Wilhelm declines to listen to the strains of the revolutionary Marseillaise.

Gossip on National Anthems Of Lands Across the Sea

Having read in a recent Plancher letter a description of some of the national anthems, "Miss Virginia" writes to ascertain where the "Marseillaise" originated. As far as is known the music at least is German, and—was it not irony of fate?—the words substituted and fitted to the tune hardly could have been more pronounced in their anti-German tendency. "God Save the King," it is contended, originated in France as a counterpart to the Bourbon:

Grand Dieu, sauve le Roi Grand Dieu, sauve le Roi Grand Dieu, sauve le Roi

But I believe otherwise. Melody, rhythm and words all point to the same German origin as the Prussian anthem: Heil dir im Siegerkranz Herrscher der Völker König der Welt, König der Welt.

It is held in England to the day that Henry Carey composed of "Sally in Our Alley," simply translated. But in phrase "God Save the King," however, is older than either the French or the English versions of the song. It is found in Coverdale's translation of the Bible in 1534, and in 1545 it was used as a watchword in the British navy, with the counterstrain: "Long Reign Over Us."

There really is no "authorized" version of the British national air. There have been numerous additions, one of which I had occasion to mention recently. But for rhyming reduced to its simplest form one must take a look at the extra verse with which the Duke of Clarence was honored, when, as a British admiral, he escorted Louis XVIII across the Canal la Manche back to France. Here is a model:

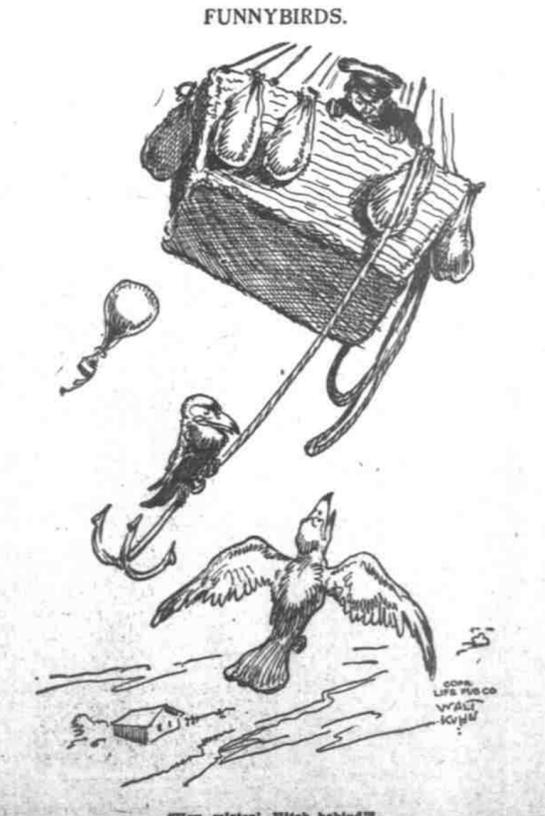
God save noble Clarence, Who brings her King to France. God save Clarence, Who maintains the glory of his name. O, God, make him happy. God save Clarence.

The story which I related the other day of how Lord Kitchener improvised an Afghan national anthem out of Handel's solemn march in Scipio might be supplemented by this legend about the Japanese national song. When the late Sir Arthur Sullivan was writing the melody was worked in by the composer for that scene. Though its barbaric strains still perform the same duty, but long since it has been unmasked as a sort of music hall tune which at one time was as popular in Tokio or Yokohama or Kobe as "Ta-ra-ra-boom-de-ay" in this country.

But, speaking of Afghanistan, that country is not the only country without a national anthem. Italy is in the same predicament, for neither the "Royal March" nor "Garibaldi's Hymn" can justly lay claim to the title. Spain is no more fortunate, though it uses a song composed for it by King Frederick the Great of Prussia, who, as we all know, was a very talented musician. Germany is blessed with two magnificent national hymns among her many patriotic songs, namely, "Die Wacht am Rhein," and Koerner's "Schwerdtwägen."

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FUNNYBIRDS.



COMMENCEMENTS

By GEORGE FITCH, Author of "At Good Old Stowak."

Commencement is an annual ceremony in which the pupils who have absorbed an entire course of study submit samples of the wisdom they have acquired to their friends and relatives.

There are many kinds of commencement, including those in high schools, universities, training schools for nurses, business colleges, conservatories of music, barber colleges, veterinary schools, theological seminaries, law academies and correspondence schools. But of all these, by far the most important is the high school commencement, where the pale young graduate, in his first bid to repudiate the school, in the hold of life and the other in the floral decorations on the village stage, and people that beyond the footlights are 1500 young men, each one of whom is gazing at him with two eyes like automobile searchlights.

Commencement lies midway in terror between the first visit to the dentist and the wedding march down the church aisle. After a boy has gotten over these three crises he is tolerably safe for the rest of his life if he is firm in his refusal to repudiate his school. Commencement, like a wedding, consists mostly of clothes for the girl, and embarrassment for the young man. Clothes take away the horror of both occasions for girls and keep them happy through the ordeal, but there is no oplate for the young man who has to lug his eighty-pound feet and ham-sized hands to the front of the stage at commencement and try to illuminate the world with an oration of which all he can remember at that moment is the fourth line in the last.

Educators often wonder why so many young men leave high schools to become captains of industry or grocery boys, and thus abandon the cause of education to their sisters. The answer, however, is simple. The boys are not abandoning education, but the commencement oration. If the sterling young athletes in our high schools were to be allowed to speak at commencement per photograph, while they themselves just beheld a bank of palms and perished unseen by the populace, they would not quit school with such firmness and determination in their junior year.

Commencements are held in June at an average temperature of 101 degrees and are a great source of joy to parents, friends, and dressmakers. Many entirely new discoveries in history, science, and politics are made by the essayists at commencement exercises, but thus far the wicked trust which runs the encyclopedia has scornfully declined to embrace this rare wisdom in print.



A LITTLE NONSENSE.

NO END TO IT. Swatting the fly is the thing. As he goes by On the wing.

Swatting the fly Is a sport. Now ranking high Of its sort.

Swatting the fly— Here we go. Thicker they lie Than the snow.

Swatting the fly Is a bore. Though thousands die, There are more.

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Arizona is the grandfather of the continent geologically, and the baby of the States politically. It is only a year old as a State, and is still mad because President Taft took away its recall ratification. It was first settled several thousand years before the Pilgrim fathers came over and many of the houses built by the original inhabitants are in a better state of preservation than some of the railroad depots in the State today. Arizona has the finest collection of prehistoric ruins in the country, not excepting the United States Senate, but it is only in the last few years that men have learned how to live in it successfully and to refrain from the six-shooter. Tombstone is one of the oldest towns in the State, and its name is a witness to the slow growth of Arizona as a territory. In Southern Arizona the thermometers are fitted with safety valves, and for many years the inhabitants ventilated each other with revolver bullets in an unsuccessful effort to keep comfortable.

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Arizona is now growing rapidly and contains 200,000 people—two for each square mile. The State is thus not yet congested with citizens, and in some of the northern precincts, across from the Grand Canyon, election returns have to be sent in to the county seat by aeroplane.

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